

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04553 090526Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SR-02 ORM-01

IO-10 AID-05 FDRE-00 SAM-01 /068 W

----- 048647

P 090430Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4982

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 4553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN NEW MINISTER OF INFORMATION,  
ASSOCIATED PRESS AND PAO

1. SUMMARY: IN EFFORT CLARIFY STORY ON AIRLIFT ORPHANS, GENERAL HIEP, MINISTER OF INFORMATION, ASKED AP REPORTER AND PAO MEET WITH HIM TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TV INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY PM DAN, IN AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH COULD HAVE PUT AP AND GVN IN AWKWARD POSITION. PAO SUGGESTED ALTERNATE SCENARIO TO AVOID POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM

COMMENTS RE FIRST IMPRESSION HIEP'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE.

2. GENERAL HIEP ASKED PAO TO MEET WITH HIM LATE THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS WHAT HE FELT "INAPPROPRIATE" REPORTING BY AP. HE WAS REFERRING TO STORY YESTERDAY THAT LEFTIST OPPOSITION GROUP HAD PUT OUT

COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNING AIRLIFT OF ORPHANS IN WORDS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO HANOI'S ATTACKS ON AIRLIFT. COMMUNIQUE HAD COPY OF LETTER FROM DEPUTY PM DAN TO PM KHIEM, DATED APRIL 2, WHICH INCLUDED REFERENCE TO FACT THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN HAD INTERVENED TO REQUEST GVN ALLOW ORPHANS TO BE AIRLIFTED. AMBIGUOUS SENTENCE WHICH FOLLOWED SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR FELT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL IN INFLUENCING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, PARTICULARLY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 04553 090526Z

WHEN COMBINED WITH STORIES OF REFUGEES.

3. AP HAD CALLED DAN WHO SAID LETTER WAS AUTHENTIC BUT STATED THAT IT WAS HE, DAN, WHO FELT AIRLIFT MIGHT BE USEFUL AND REITERATED THAT AMBASSADOR'S INVOLVEMENT WAS FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS ONLY.

4. HIEP ASKED PAO TO JOIN MEETING WITH AP REPORTER CARL ROBINSON AT 2:30 P.M. SIMPLY TO "ESTABLISH FACTS" AND BECAUSE HE WANTED TO INVITE ROBINSON COVER TV INTERVIEW BEING RECORDED BY DAN LATER IN AFTERNOON.

5. AT MEETING, HIEP AND GVN SPOKESMAN CUONG SUGGESTED RATHER DIRECTLY THAT AP AND OTHER FOREIGN MEDIA SHOULD NOT COVER SUCH STORIES WHICH WERE ONLY DESIGNED TO DISSEMINATE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA. ROBINSON POINTED OUT THAT STORY HAD BEEN CHECKED WITH DAN AND AMERICAN EMBASSY AND INCLUDED THEIR COMMENTS. HIEP QUIETLY BUT PERSISTENTLY KEPT SUGGESTING FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA AVOID SUCH STORIES.

6. PAO BEGAN TO FEEL HIS PRESENCE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS EMBASSY SANCTION OF NONE-TOO-SUBTLE EFFORT TO WARN AP OFF OF WHAT HAD BEEN REASONABLY BALANCED COVERAGE OF LEGITIMATE NEWS AND SUGGESTED THAT WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD GVN CONCERNS, AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF VERY LARGE PRESS CORPS WOULD INEVITABLE COVER SUCH STORIES. SAID BEST APPROACH FOR GVN WOULD BE TO BE PREPARED IMMEDIATELY COMMENT ON SUCH STORIES, GIVING MEDIA OFFICIAL GVN VIEWS AND REFUTATIONS.

7. HIEP AGREED THIS WAS BEST APPROACH AND STATED HE WAS IN PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING 24-HOUR "SITUATION ROOM" WHICH PRESS COULD CALL FOR IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON VARIOUS ISSUES. (INTERESTING TO NOTE GVN SPOKESMAN CUONG HAS NEVER HAD PHONE IN HIS HOME WHICH WOULD ENABLE PRESS TO REACH HIM AROUND THE CLOCK.)

8. HIEP SAID HE WOULD LIKE ROBINSON TO BE PRESENT AT TAPING OF INTERVIEW LATER TODAY WITH DAN SO AP COULD FOLLOW UP ITS ORIGINAL STORY WITH GVN'S VIEWS. ROBINSON BEGAN TO FEEL HE WAS BEING USED AND DEMURRED IN QUIET WAY. PAO ALSO THOUGHT GVN WOULD OPEN ITSELF TO CRITICISM BY OTHER CORRESPONDENTS IF GVN ALLOWED ONLY ONE WIRE SERVICE TO COVER WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED PUBLIC STATEMENT.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAIGON 04553 090526Z

9. HE SUGGESTED PRESS CONFERENCE FORMAT BE SET UP AND ALL FOREIGN PRESS INVITED, TO AVOID THE PROBLEM AS BOTH AP AND PAO SAW IT. HIEP CONCURRED AND CALL WAS SENT OUT TO MEDIA FOR PRESS CONFERENCE AT 5:00 P.M. (CONFERENCE WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL).

10. COMMENT: HIEP AT FIRST ATTEMPTED USE PAST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AP TO DISSUADE AP FROM SUCH COVERAGE, ALSO TELLING

ROBINSON THAT HE, HIEP, COULD BE PHONED BY ALL MEDIA 24 HOURS  
A DAY. IF HE INTENDS SO OPEN DOOR, IT WILL DETRACT FROM TIME HE  
NEEDS TO RUN ENTIRE MINISTRY. ON OTHER HAND HIEP RESPONDED  
QUICKLY AND GRACEFULLY TO COUNTER-SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PAO. IT  
CLEAR HE IS MOVING VERY FAST BASICALLY WELL, EVEN THOUGH HE  
MAY NOT YET HAVE PERCEIVED DIFFERENCE IN DEALING DIRECTLY WITH  
PRESS AND RUNNING MINISTRY. HIS SITUATION ROOM IS GOOD  
BEGINNING AND WILL FILL SERIOUS GVN LACK HERETOFORE. FOLLOWING  
MEETING, CUONG TOOK PAO ASIDE TO SAY HIEP HAS BEEN MOVING  
EXTREMELY WELL AND HAS PROMISED TO PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT,  
DIRECTION, AND FLEXIBILITY TO THE INFORMATION APPARATUS. ON  
BALANCE, GOOD START SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE EVEN AS HIEP FEELS  
HIS WAY THROUGH INTRICACIES AND DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED.  
MARTIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, ORPHANS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SAIGON04553  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750122-1118  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750467/aaaacjip.tel  
**Line Count:** 129  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEETING BETWEEN NEW MINISTER OF INFORMATION, ASSOCIATED PRESS AND PAO  
**TAGS:** PINT, VS, (HIEP)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006